



ACRPC

update

December 2008

ACRPC Energy Committee Program: Renewable Alternatives to Vermont Yankee

Thursday, December 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street

Conference on Community-Based Approaches to Energy and Climate Change

Saturday, December 6th, 9 am - 4 pm
Vermont Technical College

VPIRG presentation and community discussion on renewable energy alternatives available to replace the electricity generated by Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant and problems associated with renewing Entergy's contract after 2012. For more information, contact Elizabeth Golden at 388-3141 or egolden@sover.net.

The University of Vermont Extension Service and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network invite you to attend the First Annual Vermont Conference on "Community-Based Approaches to Energy and Climate Change" on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. Conference registration, refreshments, and exhibitors begin at 8:00 am, with the conference starting at 9:00 am.

This full-day conference is for individuals interested in how Vermont communities can take action to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy for municipal government, businesses, and residents. Through workshop presentations, regional break-out meetings, and plenary sessions, we will examine how Vermont communities can reduce energy costs and our contribution to greenhouse gases. Participants will gain an increased understanding of a wide range of opportunities for tackling energy and climate change at the local level, while also having an opportunity to network with other Vermont communities. The keynote speaker will be Glen Brand, Co-Founder and Director of the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program who will speak about Generating Local Energy Solutions: Solving Global Warming One Community at a Time.

Registration fee (\$20/person) includes entry to all workshops and general sessions, exhibit hall, and lunch. Register at www.regonline.com/VTEnergy.

Commission Calendar

	Day	Time	Event
December	3	6:30	Executive Board
	3	7:00	Natural Resources Committee
	5	12:00	Energy Committee
	6	9:00-4:00	Community-Based Approaches to Energy & Climate Change @ VTC
	10	5:00	LEPC Meeting, New Haven
	10	7:30	Full Commission
	11	7:00	Renewable Alternatives to VT Yankee
	17	7:00	Municipal Zoning Bylaws VIT Workshop
	25		Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
	January	1	
2		12:00	Energy Committee
7		6:30	Executive Board (pending need)
7		9:00-4:00	GIS Roundtable @ Vermont Technical College, Randolph
8		6:30	Town Energy Coordinator Training Fair
14		7:30	Full Commission
21		7:00	TAC
21		5:00	LEPC Meeting, New Haven
22		7:00	Energy Conservation Program
28		6:30	Executive Board

Meetings are open to the public and unless otherwise noted held at ACRPC. Selected minutes are available online at www.acrpc.org. For further info, contact 388-3141.

This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

News & Events

Census Data Workshops

The Vermont State Data Center is offering data workshops on Thursday, December 4, beginning at 9:00 AM at Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, VT (For directions, go to: <http://www.central-vt.com/chamber/meetingspace/map.jpg>) and Wednesday, December 10 at 9:00 AM at Howard Dean Education Center in Springfield, VT (for directions go to: <http://www.deancenter.org/static/directions.htm>).

This is an opportunity to learn about how to find Census Bureau data or find out what data for our state and local communities will look like in the next decade. Feel free to pick and choose from among these offerings:

9:00am - 11:00am: Tips for Finding and Accessing Census Bureau Data will focus on the ins and outs of basic Census Bureau data. Emphasis will be placed on the decennial Census and the American Community Survey so far. We'll focus on online sources, especially how to use American FactFinder. Participants will be able to tour these resources in real time on computers during the session.

11:00am - 12:30pm: The American Community Survey in Vermont will cover what's in our future with the American Community Survey. We'll focus on what ACS will look like and what's in store for data on our local communities.

1:30pm - 3:30pm: Vermont Counts! Preparing for Census 2010 will cover the basic mechanics of a decennial Census count in Vermont and what is being done to prepare. We'll also cover the opportunities for organizations to take part and help to ensure a complete and accurate count in Vermont in 2010.

All sessions are free, but registration is required. Contact: Chip Sawyer at Vermont State Data Center, 802-656-0892, wsawyer@uvm.edu. For information and/or registration: <http://crs.uvm.edu/census/training/december08.pdf>

Municipal Zoning Bylaws After September 1, 2011

VLCT Municipal Assistance Center and Vermont Regional Planning Commissions are offering a workshop on Vermont Interactive Television on December 17 at 7:00 pm, designed for all local officials involved in land use planning and regulation. All are welcome, though it is particularly relevant for planning commissioners, planners, zoning administrators, development review board members, selectboard members, town managers and administrators.

Please be sure to select your Vermont Interactive Television Location. Note that Castleton is not available. Waterbury site is available, contrary to the paper registration. For directions to each site, please visit www.vitlink.org.

Price: \$45 PACIF, \$55 VLCT, \$75 Non Members. Registration deadline: December 5. Registrations received after the deadline should include an extra \$10 per person. Cancellations: For a full refund, please cancel in writing by December 5. Please note that, for your convenience, you may pre-register without paying. However, if you do not attend the workshop, and have not cancelled your registration in writing or via email by the deadline, you will be billed for the full cost of the workshop.

Contact: Amanda Moshinskie, info@vlct.org, 802-229-9111 (fax: 802-229-2211).

Links to Resources

PACT, Vermont Agency of Human Services, and United Ways of Vermont have been working with community volunteers and social service agencies in Addison County to organize efforts to assist those in need of food and fuel assistance, as well as health and human services this winter. In addition to calling the free Vermont 211 helpline, citizens may access websites with information on programs and emergency services: www.vermont211.org and www.northcountrychildbirthservices.net/foodfuelcash.html. From outside Vermont, call 802-652-4636.

News & Events

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference Achieves Objectives

More than 350 Emergency Responders and Planners from around Vermont recently came together for the first annual Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. The conference was an opportunity for local, state, and federal agencies to connect on issues of mutual aid and preparations for emergencies. It was co-sponsored by Vermont Emergency Management, Vermont Homeland Security and the Vermont Department of Health.

Speakers from Vermont Emergency Management, Vermont State Police, Vermont Hazardous Materials team, and others explained the state's emergency infrastructure and what resources are available to towns in a time of disaster. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Administrator Arthur Cleaves spoke of the federal aid process and how the federal government can help local jurisdictions pay for disaster recovery and prevention. Those presentations were accompanied by talks from local officials from Barre City, Cambridge, Lincoln, and others who shared their own experiences in disasters, including successes and important lessons learned and how they have used those lessons to better prepare for the future.

Cambridge Emergency Management Director David Severance talked about the heavy rain and the tornado that ripped through his community in July and the unique challenges he faced in responding. Barre City Mayor Thomas Lauzon spoke of the flood that hit his community last year and how resources were brought together to evacuate individuals and provide shelter for those in need. Will Sipsey of the Lincoln Select Board showed how his town used federal disaster mitigation funds to lessen the effects of flooding at the town library.

“Emergency management doesn't focus solely on responding to a disaster. Other phases of emergency management include preparedness, recovery and mitigation.” Vermont Emergency Management Director Barb Farr said. “At times, several state agencies come together to respond to an incident, but towns can also take steps to prepare for and mitigate the effects of a disaster. This conference allowed towns to look at how they can help themselves and help each other; it also showed them what the state and federal government can do in all stages of emergency management. Hopefully we have better equipped everyone to protect the public in future disasters.”

The conference also served as a forum to recognize those in the emergency response community who have gone above and beyond in keeping citizens of individual towns and the state of Vermont safe. They include:

David Severance, Cambridge Emergency Management Director, who was honored as the Vermont recipient for the Northeast States Consortium's Emergency Manager of the Year. The honor recognized his years of service and continued contribution to the safety and readiness of his community. Severance helped found Cambridge Rescue, developed the town's emergency response plans, and served as a leader in emergency management for his and surrounding towns.

Chief Leo Nadeau, Essex Police, who was recognized as a committed leader for 37 years of service in his field of law enforcement. His leadership during the Essex School shootings of 2006 likely saved lives. Nadeau's outstanding work and concern for public safety, particularly in the area of the Essex School Safety Committee, has grown to now include a statewide effort to prepare schools for all hazards.

Steve Earley of Richmond is a founding member of the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team that helps schools throughout the state prepare for any potential hazard. His hard work and diligence has produced funding and training for those who wish to keep Vermont schools safe.

Lieutenant Rick Hopkins, Vermont State Police, Rockingham, was recognized for his organizational skills and his calm and decisive leadership during the Vermont Yankee exercises and drills in the Brattleboro area. Hopkins has worked tirelessly with volunteers and emergency response partners to coordinate the Incident Field Office on the potential evacuation issues and plans involving VT Yankee.

Lucky and Louise Diamond, Addison County Community Emergency Response Team, demonstrate the very essence of active volunteers and leadership with the CERT Team, the Red Cross, and as their community's emergency management directors.

Photos of the recipients are available upon request from Mark Bosma, Vermont Emergency Management Public Information Officer, at 800-347-0488 or mbosma@dps.state.vt.us.

Grants

USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program Loans and Grants

Applications are now being accepted for loans, grants and loan/grant combinations to construct, improve or purchase facilities and/or equipment that provide essential services to a rural community. Examples include public safety, health care, cultural, educational and public buildings.

Eligibility: Rural communities and non-profit organizations that serve communities with a population of 20,000 or less. Grants based on need of project and median household income of community. See grant eligible communities: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt/vtnhcfgranteligibility.htm>

Application deadlines:

Grants and Loan/Grant Combos: January 20, 2009

Loans (long term, low interest/fixed rate): Accepted anytime!

Special Disaster Funding may be available if you apply now. The project does not have to be related to the disaster.

Upcoming VT Workshops:

Dec. 2 in St. Albans; Dec.5 in Morrisville and Montpelier.

To register, contact Susan Poulin at 802-828-6032 or Susan.Poulin@vt.usda.gov

For detailed Program information go to:
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm>

Vermont Community Climate Change Grant Program

The Agency of Natural Resources administers a new grant program which will make \$360,000 available to local communities for improving energy efficiency, saving tax dollars and strengthening local economies. The funding for this initiative comes from the first installment of Vermont's \$1.8 million, five-year settlement payout against American Electric Power Corp., the nation's largest operator of coal-fired power plants. Up to \$12,000 will be awarded to each town project, and local communities will be required to provide a 10 percent match. For more information and to download an application, visit the agency website at: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/air/Planning/htm/ClimateChange.htm>, or call 802-241-3840.

U.S. Department of Transportation Notice of Grant Awards: Lake Champlain Byway

The Lake Champlain Byway has received 3 grant awards from the Federal Agency of Transportation totalling over \$500,00, including a \$73,840 grant to update the Corridor Management Plans for the three counties of the Lake Champlain Byway in northwest Vermont - Grand Isle, Chittenden and Addison Counties, build and strengthen the Lake Champlain Byway Council's capabilities to manage the Byway and implement small projects in communities that are joining the Byway in 2008. This project benefits the byway traveler by assuring Management Plans and recommended activities reflect the current conditions of the Byway's intrinsic resources and current traveler needs. Through increased training, education, and outreach with tourism providers, the Lake Champlain Byway Council will be strengthened and Byway representatives will be better able to serve the traveler. Traveler amenities such as brochures, maps and interpretive information will be developed for new Byway member towns.

An additional \$376,300 grant for the Vergennes Main Street Byway Recreational Access Project Phase III will provide improvements and enhance access for visitors to experience the recreational and historic resources on Otter Creek and its shoreline within the Main Street corridor. The project is to construct a stairway connecting the recently constructed Riverwalk (A phase 2 Byways project) with Otter Creek Basin, a 37 foot drop at the Vergennes falls. The stairway will provide a safe and easy canoe portage, as well as scenic overlooks and access to trails, boating, and fishing for the Byways traveler. This project benefits the byway traveler by providing immediate access to a scenic and historic natural rock falls and river environment for fishing, boating, picnicing and general recreation. The byways traveler gains access to Otter Creek Basic recreational opportunities and an historic area of the City of Vergennes that now has limited access from the byway. There is immediately adjacent ample parking and a riverwalk leading to the proposed project.